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Message Text

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53
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

/070 W
---------- 008960
R 161329Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5213
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3634

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SF, PINT
SUBJECT: SETBACK FOR FAR RIGHT WING

REF: PRETORIA A-113.

1. THE ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE HERSTIGTE NASIONALE PARTY (HNP) WAS SOUNDLY DEFEATED BY NATIONAL PARTY AUGUST 12 IN BY-ELECTION TO FILL VACANT PROVINCIAL COUNCIL SEAT FOR MARICO, TRANSVAAL. NP CANDIDATE JOSHUA JOUBERT POLLED 83 PERCENT OF VOTE OVER HNP FRANCOIS VAN DER WALT. UNITED PARTY DID NOT CONTEST ELECTION.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS ARE GENERALLY OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE, MARICO WAS REGARDED AS SIGNIFICANT TEST OF GOVERNMENT POPULARITY AND STRENGTH AGAINST RIGHT WING THREAT IN HIGHLY CONSERVATIVE DISTRICT. IT WAS FELT THAT STRONG HNP SHOWING MAY HAVE FURTHER INHIBITED ANY VERLIGTE TENDENCIES ON SAG'S PART AND CAUSED FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO RIGHT WING. MARICO SEEN AS PRTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF HNP GAINS IN ALL FOUR PREVIOUS PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTIONS SINCE 1974, AND BECAUSE OF ITS TIMING
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DURING CRUCIAL PERIOD OF UNREST. OBSERVERS FEEL STRONG NP

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WIN IN MARICO STRENGTHENS HAND OF VERLIGTE ELEMENTS.
BOWDLER

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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